



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 18, 2008

**Fact Sheet**

**SANDERS ANNOUNCES FIRST QUARTER CRIME RATE DOWN  
5% FROM LAST YEAR AND 14.9% FROM SAME PERIOD IN 2006**

***CITY USING GRANT FUNDS TO COMBAT INCREASE IN GANG-RELATED CRIMES***

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced that the 2008 first quarter crime statistics for the City of San Diego show a 5% decrease in the citywide crime rate over the same period in 2007 and an impressive 14.9% reduction over the first quarter of 2006—the first full quarter during which Mayor Sanders was in office. The crime rate is calculated per 100,000 residents.

Additionally, the first quarter crime index, which represents the actual number of crimes committed citywide during January 1 to March 31, 2008, is down 4.5% from the same period in 2007, and down 12.8% from 2006.

**FIRST QUARTER STATISTICS CONTINUE CRIME-REDUCTION TREND**

- The first quarter figures continue the crime-reduction trend shown in the year-end 2007 crime statistics which highlighted a 2.1% annual decrease from 2006 and 4% reduction from when Mayor Sanders first assumed office at the close of 2005.
- The 2007 year-end statistics showed that the City's overall crime rate is comparable to rates seen in the late 1960s.
- The violent crime rate, which has decreased for four consecutive years—and 13 of the past 15—is at its lowest rate since 1973, when San Diego had nearly 600,000 fewer residents. The 6,331 violent crimes reported in 2007 were the lowest since 1985.

### **A REDUCTION IN ACTUAL CRIMES COMMITTED AND THE DECLINING CRIME RATE**

*(REFERENCE CRIME STATS CHART ATTACHED)*

- The 11,282 crimes committed during the first quarter of 2008 represents:
  - a decrease of 4.5% from the same period in 2007, when 11,819 crimes were committed.
  - a decrease of 12.8% from the same period in 2006, when 12,939 crimes were committed.
- The 3,360 crime rate (per 100,000 people) for the first quarter of 2008:
  - is a 5% reduction from the same period in 2007, when the crime rate was 3,536
  - is a 14.9% reduction from the same period in 2006, when the rate was 3,947.
- The first quarter statistics for this year show decreases from the 2007 statistics in all three categories of property crimes—burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft—and in the violent crime category of aggravated assault.

### **PROPERTY CRIME DOWN ACROSS THE BOARD**

*(REFERENCE CRIME STATS CHART ATTACHED)*

- Property crimes in the first quarter of 2008 were down 5.3% citywide, from 10,416 to 9,863.
  - Burglaries were down 5.9% (1,949 to 1,834),
  - Larcenies were down 4.5% (5,543 to 5,295)
  - Motor vehicle thefts were down 6.5% (2,924 to 2,734).
- When compared with the first quarter in 2006, the overall number of property crimes has decreased by 13.4% (from 11,390 to 9,863.)

### **A MINOR INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME**

*(REFERENCE CRIME STATS CHART ATTACHED)*

- There was a minor 1.1% increase in the number of violent crimes committed during the first quarter this year as opposed to last year, from 1,403 to 1,419.
- During the months of January to March 2008 compared to the same period in 2007:
  - Murders increased from 11 to 12 (+9.1%)
  - Rapes increased from 66 to 69 (+4.5%),
  - Robberies went up from 459 to 474 (+3.3%),
  - Aggravated assaults decreased from 867 to 864 (-0.3%).
- However, when compared with the first quarter in 2006, in the first quarter of 2008:
  - Violent crime was reduced by 8.4% (from 1,549 in 2006, to 1,419 in 2008)
  - Murders were reduced by 14.3% (from 14 to 12)
  - Rapes were reduced by 9.2% (from 76 to 69)
  - Robberies were reduced by 6.9% (from 509 to 474)
  - Aggravated assaults were reduced by 9.1% (from 950 to 864)

### **GANG-RELATED CRIMES INCREASE**

In contrast,, gang-related crimes—while only 2 percent of the overall total number of crimes—showed an increase of 19% during the first quarter of 2008, from 216 to 257. The number of homicides, assaults, robberies, auto thefts and other non-felony crimes all showed increases over the same period last year.

In an effort to combat the rise in gang-related crimes, the City has applied for and received federal and state grant funding to assist with gang prevention and intervention efforts.

In particular, the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention was awarded \$200,000 by the U.S. Department of Justice in September 2007 to implement a more coordinated, and collaborative effort between organizations serving at risk youth in the Encanto Neighborhoods. The target areas are the Encanto neighborhoods (which are comprised of the sub-communities of Chollas View, Lincoln Park, Valencia Park, Emerald Hills and Encanto), which are located in the Southeastern area of the City of San Diego and are part of Council District 4. *(A full report on the progress of the implementation of the grant is attached)*

Other notable gang prevention grants the City has received include:

- The City received \$225,000 in January 2008 from the California Wellness Foundation to establish Anti- gang collaborations in Linda Vista, South Bay and Mira Mesa.
- The City received \$400,000 California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program Grant in March 2008. The grant allows the City to expanded recreation center hours in targeted areas; create multidisciplinary teams to employ a community-based and home-visit model to screen individuals for appropriate prevention methods; hire a criminal intelligence specialist to develop linkages, services and trends that will help anticipate problems.

### **SANDERS BUDGET ADDS RAISES AND INCREASES OVERALL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SAFETY**

Thanks in part to some of the programs Mayor Sanders implemented while serving as Chief of Police, San Diego remains one of the safest large cities in America. The City's overall crime rate is comparable to rates in the late 1960's and our violent crime rate is at its lowest point since 1973.

To continue these positive trend lines the Mayor is increasing funding for the City's public safety departments in his FY09 budget. The Mayor has included more funding for the City's Police and Fire/Rescue Departments in each of the balanced budgets he has delivered since taking office.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET ALLOCATIONS**

Function	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Fire-Rescue Department	\$169,509,660	\$179,943,098	\$188,252,919
Police Department	360,134,725	392,336,695	409,199,362
<b>Combined Budgets</b>	<b>\$529,644,385</b>	<b>\$572,279,793</b>	<b>\$597,452,281</b>

The Mayor's FY09 budget includes funding for several critical projects intended to keep our community safe and **better prepared for future wildfires:**

- \$2.3 million to fund operation and staffing of a **second emergency services helicopter;**
- **\$1,335,248 for new equipment and supplies;**
- **Six Code Compliance Officers to help monitor and address brush and weed abatement** on private property. The additional staff will help satisfy a key recommendation in the After-Action Report regarding the 2007 Wildfires

The Mayor's budget also **increases the budget for the San Diego Police Department:**

- **\$7 million to pay for new recruits** graduating from the Public Safety Academy during FY09.
- **\$894,161 for replacing aging mobile computer terminals** and costs for new wireless modems used by all sworn Police officials.

The Mayor's budget also includes money to cover raises that will help the City to recruit, train and retain qualified police officers and fire fighters. The raises are included as part of labor agreements made by the Mayor and the Police Officers Association (POA) and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 145.

### **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

The Police Department is on track to employ more than 2,000 sworn active personnel during Fiscal Year 2009. That number had dipped to a recent low of 1,871 in July 2006 during a time when many sworn personnel were either retiring or leaving the department for other law enforcement agencies.

The Mayor also highlighted a 200 percent increase in the number of recruits currently entering the Police Academy compared to a low point in October 2007, and offered numbers to show that the attrition rate—which includes retirements and loss of personnel to other agencies—has been reduced by 39 percent since FY06. In particular, the loss of personnel to other jurisdictions is down by 50 percent.

An aggressive retention and recruitment plan was introduced by the Police Department in the latter part of 2006. Since that time the number of active sworn personnel has increased steadily, with FY09 projected\* to have 143 more sworn personnel than in July 2006.

Year	Number
FY 05	2,033
FY 06	2,020
FY 07	1,912
FY 08	1,941
FY 09*	2,014

During FY06, the Police Department was losing an average of 18 sworn personnel a month to attrition, due primarily to retirement and the loss of officers to other agencies. That number was reduced by 16.7 percent in FY07, when the average attrition rate fell to 15 per month. In the current fiscal year, from July 07 to February 08, that number has been reduced even further to an average of 11 per month, a decrease of 39% from FY06 to present.

In October 2006, the Police Department fielded one of its smallest (17 recruits) academies in years. The Recruitment Unit was completely revamped and since that time the academies and recruitment in the lateral market have grown significantly. The academy size has more than tripled in size (+212%) since October 2006, with 48 recruits in the current academy, and 48 projected for the next academy in April 2008.